



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday December 12, 2019

No. 33 - 2019

PLEASE NOTE: SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.30am TO 3.30pm ON SCHOOL DAYS.

As this is the final newsletter for the year it is right to acknowledge the contributions made to our community over the year. Firstly, we congratulate our Year Six students on their successful completion of seven years of primary school. We wish them every success as they embrace the challenges of secondary school. We look forward to their Graduation Mass which will take place on Monday evening, December 16th at 7.00pm. We certainly hope that as these students continue their journey in education and in life, they continue to be the "Hands, Hearts and Voice of Christ."

At St Damian's we value our partnership with parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and loyalty to our school. I also thank all our Committees, both school and parish that contribute greatly to the education and life of the children at St Damian's. I especially thank our Education Board and our Parent's Committee. Most especially we thank all who volunteered in our school over the year, whether it was to support our camp program, our classroom learning, excursions, etc. The work and support of our parents, grandparents and friends is highly valued and we thank you for your contribution to the life of our school.

Advent

This Sunday is the **third week** of advent. The third candle symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. The following week is the **fourth week** of advent. The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace—He came to bring people closer to God and to each other again.



Victorian Government Capital Grant

Yesterday we were expecting a visit from the Education Minister, Mr Merlino. Unfortunately, at the last minute we were advised by his office that he was unable to attend, however we welcomed our local member for Bundoora, Mr Colin Brooks. Mr Brooks came with the very welcome news that we had been successful in gaining a Government Capital Grant for our school. We are very grateful for this grant and pleased that we will be able to commence work on some much needed improvements to our school. We have been given a grant of \$1.55M to begin Stage 1 capital works, which includes relocating the tuckshop, school library, and the girl's toilets. These are currently accessed via the driveway during recess breaks, which is not ideal.



Stage 1 of the proposed works has been estimated to cost \$4.5M. We will need to take out a loan and put in some money from school funds to add to the \$1.55M we have been granted. Works will begin in 2020, once the working drawings have been finalised, all permits secured and the tenure process completed. We are very much looking forward to improving our school facilities to provide our students with the best possible environment in which to learn. I would also like to thank Mr Colin Brooks as he has supported our school in the funding process by highlighting our school's needs to the Education Minister. We are very appreciative of Mr Brooks continued support in many ways.



Final Assembly for the Year

The final assembly for the year will be held on **Monday 16th December at 9.15am in the school hall**. At this assembly all the student leaders for 2020 will be announced as well as special presentations made to some of the students. During this assembly we also farewell staff, students and families who are leaving St Damian's at the end of the year. All families are most welcome to join us.

We will farewell many families leaving our school at the end of the year as the last of the children completes their primary education with us. Farewell and thank you to these families...

Abolencia, Azucena, Baldasso, Beattie, Clark, Covan, Cristallini, Dempsey, Farley-Marr, Farrugia, Frajsman, Gerbo, Gullone, Hart, Lam, Karamalis, Keranis, Knight, Kondarious, Lin, Mahar, Malawaraarachichi, Mayadunne, McMillan, Nasir, Papageorgiou, Parisi, Pezzin, Poon, Power, Prosenik, Pucella, Raic, Rocco, Rowan, Schembri, Sills, Stankovski, Tarevski, Thai, Trevan, Trifunoski, Viane, Warry, Young and Zhu. As well we say goodbye to the following families across the school... *Badwal, Barry, Iaria, Li(Kai), Li, Lin, Liu, Low, Ren.*



On behalf of the St Damian Community I thank each of you for being part of the St Damian school family and for giving us the privilege of being part of your family as well. Your trust and support over the years has been greatly valued and appreciated. We wish each one of you every success into the future.

Staffing 2020

As well as the classroom teachers announced in last week's newsletter, it is my pleasure to inform you of the school **Leadership Team** for next year:

Mrs Jenny Rubira – Deputy and Learning & Teaching Leader
 Mrs Mary-Ann Wright – Religious Education Leader
 Mrs Maree Foley-Smith – Literacy Leader F-2
 Mrs Mattie Dragonetti – Literacy Leader 3-6
 Mrs Carmen Bruce – Maths Leader
 Mrs Tania Micomonaco – Wellbeing Leader

Specialist Teachers:

Ms Rachael Lorkin – Performing Arts/ Technology Admin, Ms Lidia Tanski – Music; Mr Tim Watson – P.E. & classroom support; Ms Charissa Beeby – Visual Arts, Mrs Margaret O'Connor- Learning Diversity, Mrs Felicity Cockayne – Reading Recovery; Mrs Kath Andrews - Library, Italian Language Leader – Mrs Angela De Francesco

Administration Staff:

Mrs Angela Parisi, Mrs Sandra Spicer (Friday) Mrs Lina Parisot - Bursar

Learning Support Officers:

Mrs Joanne Sobey, Mrs Bernadette Douglas, Mrs Connie Payne, Mrs Domenica Martini, Mrs Maria Costanzo, Mrs Elisa Answerth, Mrs Sandra Spicer, Mrs Sally Tan, Mr Benjamin Lim.

Farewell

At the end of this year we farewell some of our staff who are moving on to other schools. **Mrs Danielle Di Stefano** is taking up a position at St Paul, the Apostle Doreen. **Mrs Georgia Wise** is taking up a position at Holy Trinity School, Eltham. **Miss Marcia Smarrelli** is taking up a position at St Clements School, Bulleen and **Miss Luisa La Rosa** is taking up a position at St Mary of the Cross McKillop, Keilor Downs. We wish each of these wonderful teachers, who have made an amazing contribution to our school in their time here, all the best as they take up their new appointments. We will sadly miss each one, but hope that their new schools bring them all much success and fulfillment. At the end of this year we also farewell **Mr Sebastian Gould** who has only been with us a short while. However, in this time has been amazing in the way he took up a classroom role and ensured that the students' learning was not disrupted. We thank Mr Gould and wish him all the best as he takes up a position at St John's, Heidelberg – a school a little closer to his home. We also officially farewell **Mr Vic Zappa** as he finishes up at St Damian's after almost 20 years of service. We wish him all the best as he now spends more quality time with his family.

We are not officially 'farewelling' Mrs Glenda Fletcher, however **Mrs Fletcher is taking extended Long Service Leave** next year and will not return until Term 4. We wish Mrs Fletcher a well-deserved rest and hope that she enjoys every minute of her time away.

Welcome

We welcome **Mrs Lina Parisot** to our staff in 2020. Mrs Parisot is currently the Parish Secretary and we expect that she will make a smooth transition into the school office as she takes up the Bursar position. We also welcome some new staff to St Damian's in 2020. **Miss Hannah Walsh** will share a Year 4 class with **Mrs Laura Maguire**. **Miss Martina Tran** will join our staff team as a Year 3 teacher and **Mrs Janette Tivisini** will share a Year 3 class with Mrs Bruce and finally we welcome **Miss Celeste Cocchiara** as a Year 1/2 teacher. We hope that each of these teachers enjoys their time with us at St Damian's and feel part of our school community.

First Two Days of 2020

Please note there was a typographical error in last week's newsletter. Students from Year 1-6 will begin the new school year on **Friday 31st January**, not Thursday as was stated. The new Foundation Year students will begin on Monday 3rd February. We apologise for the confusion.

CEMSIS

Late in term 2 our school completed surveys related to school improvement. These surveys are completed by staff, students and parents. We sent out 100 surveys and 23 families very kindly filled in a survey. Whilst 23% is a small number of responses, we are very grateful to those families who took the time to complete a survey and give us some feedback relating to how we are travelling as a school. Please see the attached report associated with the survey.

Prayer for the Graduates:

Heavenly Father, surround those who are graduating with Your Grace. Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts. Help them to put the knowledge, skills and insights gained through their education to use for the good of all humankind. Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties. As they commence a new chapter in their lives, may they grow ever more grateful and wise. All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, Your beloved Son. Amen.

Christmas Blessing

We pray that the whole St Damian's Community will enjoy a Christmas that is full of Peace, Joy, and Love. We pray that all are safe in travel and in location and that each one enjoys the blessing of family over this festive time. May your greatest wishes come true and your blessings be multiplied during this.

School resumes on Friday 31st January 2020 at 8.40 am for Year 1 to Year 6 students.

I would like to thank all in our community, students, families and staff for a successful 2019. I wish everyone the peace and joy of Christmas and hope that 2020 brings much happiness and success.

Merry Christmas and thank you everyone.

Rosanna

Faith News**Giving Tree and Christmas Hampers**

Thank you for your generous donations to our Giving Tree and Christmas food hampers. Also, thank you to our wonderful Social Justice Leaders who have demonstrated commitment and leadership within our School Community throughout the year. The volunteers at St. Vinnies will certainly be busy this year as there are many items to be sorted.

The Season of Advent

As we continue our celebration of the Season of Advent, this Sunday we light the third of the Advent candles. We are reminded that the ancient peoples longed for someone to come to them and give them hope for a better way to live. We are reminded of our own hopes and longings as we prepare for Christmas.

Dates for your Diary 2019

We will be celebrating our Opening School Mass on **Wednesday, 12th February at 9:15am**. The whole school will also be attending Mass on **Wednesday, 26th February at 9:15am** for Ash Wednesday. You are warmly welcomed to join us at these Masses.

A Christmas Blessing

*Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season
May new hope and joy flood our spirit
Whenever we watch babies and young children play
May new energy delight our hearts
Whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a bbq
May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off
Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us
May the hospitality of our hearts expand
Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays
May we experience love and appreciation
Whenever we put our feet up for leisure
May the humble presence of the incarnate God companion us
Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world
May the Christ child draw us into unity.*

Amen.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader



FIRE Carrier Leaders for 2020

It is with great pleasure we announce our FIRE Carrier Leaders for 2020.

We congratulate
Ava Constantinou, Megan Dieng, Alyssa Gusatto and Savannah Karamacoski

Four very worthy students.

We sincerely thank the students who applied for this important role. We had many worth applicants but unfortunately, we could only select four.

Mrs Dragonetti
FIRE Carrier Leader

St Damian's Bottle Top and Bread Tag Collection

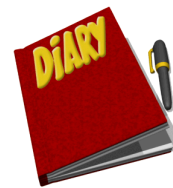




Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday

December

14th	Jonathan	1L
15th	Ian	1MZ
16th	Ashton	PT
17th	Xavier	6C
	Santiago	6C
18th	Ryan	5L
	Emily	PA
19th	Cinzia	2J
	Gabriel	1L
	Joshua	2J



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 4

December

Monday 16th

Last day of school Year 6 students

Year 6 Students' Graduation Mass 7.00pm

Last day of school Prep to Year 5 students.

Tuesday 17th

2020

TERM 1

January

Friday 31st

Year 1-6 Students commence Term 1.

Gripping Potential

Summer Sport Program

13/01 Templestowe Park TC

15/01 Bundoora TC & Yarra Glen TC

17/01 Princes Hill TC

20/01 Keon Park TC

23/01 Australian Open Excursion

\$50 Full Day, \$30 Half Day

The main focus of our clinics will be tennis however we will be incorporating other sports in our program.

BBQ Lunch provided for full clinic days.

Participants will require their own lunch and snacks for the Australian Open.

Full Day 10AM-3PM

Half Day 10AM-12PM OR 1-3PM

Phone: 0402 296 835

Email: info@grippingpotential.com.au

Website: grippingpotential.com



CEMSIS

making school better together



CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
MELBOURNE
School Effectiveness



About our school and CEMSIS	How our school engaged with CEMSIS in 2019
<p>Our school has a current enrolment of 405 students Our school community is multi-cultural and multi-faith CEMSIS is an acronym for Catholic Education Melbourne School Improvement Surveys and is a new tool for schools in 2019.</p>	<p>Survey window was 2-20th September The CEMSIS Coordinator was the school Principal, Mrs Piccolo The survey was completed by all the students in Years 4-6 39 teaching and non-teaching staff completed the survey 23 families completed the survey</p>
Our students responded positively to...	Student responses indicate opportunities in the areas of...
<p>Rigorous expectations with a score of 87% with student perception being that students feel that their teachers hold them to high expectations of their effort, understanding, persistence and performance</p>	<p>Student voice with 66% believing that they have opportunities to have an impact on their school.</p>
Our teachers and non-teaching staff responded positively to...	Staff responses indicate opportunities in the areas of...
<p>Collaboration in teams with staff perception of 73% based on how well teachers work together in teams to improve teaching and learning.</p>	<p>School Climate with staff perception of 59% based on the social and learning climate of the school</p>
Our families responded positively to...	Family responses indicate opportunities in the areas of...
<p>School Climate with an 82% positive perception of the social and learning climate of the school.</p>	<p>Family engagement with a score of 54% which looks at the degree to which families are partners with their child's school</p>
What our school is doing with our CEMSIS data	How the school will continue to use CEMSIS reports for other processes
<p>Accessing data in the school's CEMSIS portal Whole staff analysis of CEMSIS data Sharing key learning about CEMSIS with our staff, students, families Leadership and school data teams using interpretation processes Working with Catholic Education Melbourne support teams and the School Improvement Framework processes.</p>	<p>to inform Annual action plans to inform School Improvement plans to inform School Review Processes to inform pastoral and instructional leadership to inform workforce development and staff retention to inform and improve our community engagement</p>
Principal's reflection	

Suggestion:

The CEMSIS data has highlighted for us many areas to celebrate and many opportunities for future improvement. We articulate high expectations of all in our school community as we strive to continually improve the learning and teaching within our school. This data will enable us to reflect and evaluate our next steps in planning for 2020 as we develop our Annual Action Plan for next year. It is important to note that whilst CEMSIS is a key data set, it is not the only data set that will be used to continue our work on school improvement

I would like to expressly thank those 23 families for their time and care in participating in this year's CEMSIS data collection. Your feedback is highly valued and your voice is highly sought. I also thank all our school community for the continued support and encouragement given to us over the year.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS MARKET



The St Damian's Events Committee would like to thank all who participated in our first Family Christmas Market. It was a wonderful night with over 300 families from our parish, school and beyond attending. The night was a success and a great night for our community.

We would especially like to thank Mrs Carmen Bruce for all her help, Mr John Tran and Loyola Students for face painting. Big thank you to our Special Guest of the evening, SANTA. Thank you again for all who attended.



Big Thank you to Abby & Emma (Grade 2S) who raised \$76 dollars for the Parish

ST DAMIAN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.30pm Christmas Carols

6.00pm Family Mass

7.30pm Christmas Carols

8.00pm Family Mass



10.30pm Christmas Carols
11.00pm Christmas Mass



Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

8.00am & 10.00am Masses

Thursday & Friday 26th & 27th December - 9.15am Mass

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th : Feast of the Holy Family

5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.00 am & 10.00am Sunday Masses

JANUARY 2020

Tuesday 31st December - New Year's Eve

9.15 am Mass

7.30pm NEW YEARS EVE Mass

Wednesday 1st January - New Year's Day

9.15am Masses



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —